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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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- As of August 1953, there had been no price reduction in consumer goods in Belorussian SSR, since the reduction of April 1953.  everything is available in the stores and markets, but  it is expensive.
- In September 1953, meetings were held on collective farms throughout west central Belorussia, at which Communist agitators praised the new economic plans for the collectives and agitated for the kolkhozniki to work even harder than before.
- In December 1953, in response to a Government order, agronomists and mechanics began to arrive at MTSs for work on collectives.
- Forest clearing activities ceased throughout west central Belorussia in spring 1953, and no swamp drainage activities were taking place in the Naliboki Swamps.
- In summer 1953, there were rumors of currency reforms, but they ceased in fall 1953.
- As of early 1954, there was no mining of iron ore taking place near Kletchishche. These deposits were mined at least 50 years ago.
- The canal and river running from Lyubch through Rudnya Nalibotska to Rudnya Pilyanska is six meters wide, not more than one meter deep, and is in good condition. In springtime, much lumber is floated along this route, but no other freight is carried.

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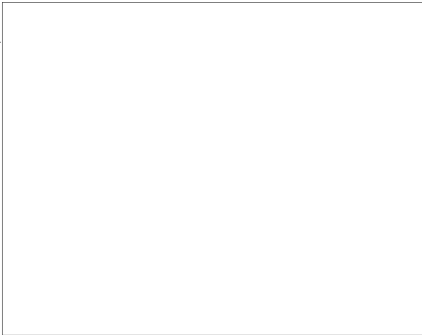
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8. As of January 1954, representatives in the villages from the rayon centers stopped agitating for votes for their candidates.
9. In spring 1954, Communist Party members and officials from the cities began to arrive in the villages. They were discontented because many of them were forced to come without their families.

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